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# GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of

The National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

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**CANNERY WORKERS PRESERVE THE BOUNTY OF AN ISRAELI COLLECTIVE FARM: GIV'AT BRENNER, 18 MILES SOUTH OF TEL AVIV (Bulletin No. 1)**

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Bulletin No. 1, October 18, 1948

# New Palestine Plan Would Alter Borders

SHALL Palestine, roughly the size and very roughly the shape of New Hampshire, appear on future maps as an irregular checkerboard of six "squares" assigned alternately to Jews and Arabs, as voted in 1947 by the United Nations General Assembly?

Or can the two states of the Holy Land successfully have the "geographical homogeneity" provided by the Bernadotte proposal, now endorsed by the United States and Great Britain?

## Bernadotte Proposed Two "Jumps" on the Checkerboard

What are the chief differences in the two partitioning plans?

In the 1947-approved checkerboard map are three rows of two squares each. The northwest square (western Galilee) is assigned to the Arab state. Northeast (eastern Galilee) goes to Israel. West-central (the Plain of Sharon coast) is awarded to Israel, while east-central (the hills of Samaria and Judaea) has an Arab label. Southwest (Biblical home of the Philistines) is Arab, and southeast (the sun-parched Negeb) is assigned to the Jews.

Jerusalem and its surroundings, within the east-central sector, and the Jaffa port region, in the west-central portion, are designated as areas for international trusteeship.

The Palestine map resulting from the newer Bernadotte plan achieves geographical homogeneity by a single swap of two of the six checkerboard spaces. Israel is given western Galilee, thus making it a continuous state across the north and northwest. The Arabs are given the Negeb.

Measured in square miles, the exchange is no even swap in areas. The Negeb sector, three-eighths of all Palestine, is eight times the size of western Galilee. By the trade, Israel would shrink from a full half to a small fourth of the Holy Land's area.

## Israelis Want Negeb, Once-populous Desert

The Negeb, however, is a forbidding desert occupied only by a few thousand Bedouin nomads until pioneering Jews from Europe established a few small farm settlements beginning five years ago. Western Galilee is a hilly farmland where orange and olive groves, vineyards and grainfields support many times the Negeb population.

Desert though the Negeb be, Israelis ardently want it, believing that by large-scale piping from the upper Jordan they can eventually irrigate and colonize it all. They know it was densely populated in Bible times. By losing the Negeb they would also lose their only coast on the Dead Sea, whose concentrated salt soup is a low-cost source of marketable potash.

Western Galilee, bordering the Mediterranean south almost to Haifa, contains Acre, a port since Phoenician times; Nazareth, where Jesus lived as a youth; and some of the larger, modern Jewish collective farms. Tel Aviv (illustration, below), booming center of the fast-growing Israeli

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MARTIN HÜRLIMANN

**TRANSFORMED FROM A MOUNTAIN LAKE BY THE SWORD OF A CHINESE GOD, KATMANDU VALLEY GLIMMERS GREEN WITH RICEFIELDS IN THE HIGH HIMALAYAS**

According to legend, this fertile valley was once a mountain-rimmed lake. From his home on a Chinese mountain came Manjusri, a deity worshipped in China, Tibet, and Nepal. With his sword, curved like a crescent moon, he cut a gash through the mountain wall. The waters of the lake flowed out, leaving only the slender ribbon of the Bragmati River to drain the valley—heart of Nepal (Bulletin No. 3). Roofs of dull-red tile or shaggy thatch cover the houses.

Bulletin No. 2, October 18, 1948

# Uranium Found in Canada's Flin Flon Region

MANITOBA'S curiously named town of Flin Flon—in whose vicinity two uranium strikes have been reported within recent months—was an important mining center long before atomic-energy demands brought uranium new and dramatic value. It also is the source of a legend not unworthy of the fabulous properties of the new mineral.

The tall, smoking chimneys of Flin Flon rise in the heart of the Dominion of Canada, in the rocky, lake-spattered region that geologists call the Canadian Shield. It is nearly 400 miles northwest of Winnipeg, capital of Manitoba. How the town got its name is uncertain, but specialists in tall tales have evolved some colorful legends to explain it.

## Story of Name May Be Flimflam

One of the best accounts tells how early prospectors in the neighborhood found a lurid dime-novel whose hero was named Joseph Flintabbaty Flonatin. After a series of fabulous travels, this Flintabbaty Flonatin had come to a hidden land ruled by Amazons, where gold was so plentiful that tin was used for money. The end of the novel was unfortunately torn off, preventing further knowledge of the secret land.

When one of the prospectors later came on a great hole in the earth full of gold-bearing ore, he exclaimed, "I've found Flin Flon's mine!" And so was named the town that sprang up—unless the whole story is a bit of unverifiable flimflam.

Flin Flon is considered part of Manitoba, but actually lies just on the border between that province and its western neighbor, Saskatchewan. Though the mine head is on the Manitoba side, its fields of copper, zinc, and gold-containing ores extend into Saskatchewan.

The uranium, too, has been discovered near by in both provinces, with still another radioactive find turned up lately at Lake La Ronge, in north-central Saskatchewan.

## Many Millions Invested

The present Flin Flon ore body came to light in 1915. Because of World War I, little at first was done about it. By 1918, there still was nothing to be seen but barren rock and one diamond drill.

Gradually, as investments rolled up to more than $30,000,000, this mine grew into one of the biggest zinc and copper producers of the continent. Though the gold content of the ore is not particularly high, so many tons are treated that Flin Flon has taken leadership in gold production for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan region.

Flin Flon now has a population of eight to nine thousand people—which makes it something of a metropolis in this sparsely settled northland of furs, fish, and forests, far beyond Manitoba's fertile grainfields and major cities.

The town—a typical mining settlement of rambling frame buildings—is built steeply on a hill. To help climbers up one tilted street, a hundred steps have been provided. The climate is severe, with an annual range

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state, is located south of this coast, in a square of the checkerboard that would not be changed under the new plan.

The Negeb, adjoining the Arab state of Trans-Jordan, points a sharp triangle southward to the Red Sea's Gulf of 'Aqaba. Near the desert's northern edge, 45 miles south of Jerusalem, is Beersheba, southern limit of the Holy Land of Old Testament record.

NOTE: Areas involved in the Palestine partition may be located on the National Geographic Society's map of Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

See also, "An Archeologist Looks at Palestine," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1947; "Palestine Today," October, 1946*; "American Fighters Visit Bible Lands," March, 1946*; "American Alma Maters in the Near East," August, 1945*; and "Bedouin Life in Bible Lands," January, 1937*; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 16, 1948, "Desert Border Divides Palestine, Arab Lands"; and "Palestine Division Affects Bible Landmarks," January 5, 1948. (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.*)

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

**CROWDED TEL AVIV FRONTS THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH A ROOMY PROMENADE AND BEACH**

**The all-Jewish city has risen since 1909 when colonists from Jaffa (Biblical Joppa) in the distance founded it on barren sand dunes. It is now industrial center, port, and resort in one. Fed by constant immigration, Tel Aviv passed Jerusalem in population during the war.**

Bulletin No. 3, October 18, 1948

# Scientists Seek Wildlife Secrets in Nepal

NEPAL, little-known kingdom in the shadow of the high Himalayas, is opening its borders to a scientific expedition which will delve into the lore of one of the richest game regions on earth.

Home of such Alice-in-Wonderland creatures as the flower mouse and the redheaded laughing thrush, this isolated land between northern India and Tibet has been chiefly noted as the source of the British Empire's fighting Gurkhas. Nepal had no diplomatic or direct trade relations with the United States until April, 1947, when the Western republic recognized the independence of Nepal and a commercial agreement was signed.

## To Study Natural History of Lowlands

An expedition sponsored by the National Geographic Society, Yale University, and the Smithsonian Institution, and approved by the new maharaja of Nepal, sailed from New York on October 6. Dr. Dillon Ripley, Associate Curator and Lecturer on Zoology at Yale University, who heads the party, estimates that it will spend about five months in the field.

The scientists will study natural history and collect specimens in Nepal's southern lowlands, the Terai, an area of sinister repute.

"Like virtually all of the country," Dr. Ripley points out, "the Terai is *terra incognita* (unknown land) for the scientist and geographer. This makes the expedition definitely a 'scientific must.' "

Malaria-carrying mosquitoes breed in the marshy tropical soil of the Terai, giving this spot a bad reputation. Native Tharus tribesmen seem to be relatively immune from the deadly fever known there as "awal," but only during the cool, dry season between October and March can travelers remain overnight in the area with safety.

Vegetation in this fertile plains region on the stairsteps road to the icy peaks of Mount Everest and other giants is particularly luxuriant. In the high grass, and the teak and sal jungles, lives a Noah's-Ark assortment of beasts and birds, great numbers of which never have been scientifically studied.

## Mouse Nests in a Tree

The elephant, tiger, wild ox, and the great one-horned rhinoceros are targets for big-game hunters in Nepal. Special hunts arranged by the goverment for visiting royalty and viceroys of India have cost $100,000. In 1911, 600 elephants, trained in hunters' tricks of trapping man-eating tigers and other animals, performed for King George V.

Buffaloes, wildcats, wolves, jackals, and deer live in the Terai. Giant fruit bats abound, and rhesus monkeys chatter above crocodiles, snakes, and lizards. Among rodents, the highland flower mouse is an Asiatic vole that lives in grass nests in the hollows of decayed trees. Another odd animal is the somersault-turning ratel, or honey badger.

In bird life, too, the expedition will find Nepal good hunting ground. Dozens of familiar-sounding varieties chirp and warble, and such graphically named characters as the white-faced wagtail, the bluebearded bee eater, and the laughing thrush add their notes to the jungle chorus.

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from such extremes as 90 degrees Fahrenheit in summer to 40 below in winter.

Flin Flon's pioneer miners reached their strikes by trudging overland from The Pas, important stop on the Saskatchewan-Hudson Bay railroad. Later, seaplanes, using the region's many lakes, flew in men and equipment (illustration, below). Now a branch line from The Pas ties Flin Flon to Canada's vast network of steel rails.

NOTE: Flin Flon may be located on the Society's map of Canada, Alaska, & Greenland.

For information about the Canadian wilds, see "Canada's Caribou Eskimos," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1947; "Family Afoot in Yukon Wilds," May, 1942; "Canada's Awakening North," June, 1936; and "Gentlemen Adventurers of the Air," November, 1929.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 22, 1948, "New Uranium Fields Boost World Resources."

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

**DURING FLIN FLON'S FIRST MINING BOOM, THIS RCAF STATION WAS A SUPPLY POINT**

**Wings preceded steel into northern Manitoba's mining area. The railroad came later. Now both serve the bleak region, scene of recent uranium finds. This point on Cormorant Lake is just north of The Pas, and 60 miles south of Flin Flon.**

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Bulletin No. 4, October 18, 1948

# Washington Monument Grounds to Be Changed

IN PREPARATION for the sesquicentennial celebration planned for 1950 in Washington, D. C., the Washington Monument grounds are scheduled to be redesigned. The newly approved landscape layout calls for no contour changes, but it eliminates roadways and adds many trees.

The famous obelisk itself, which reached its 100th birthday this summer on July 4, will remain unchanged. Exactly a century earlier, with elaborate ceremony, the 12-ton cornerstone of the monument had been laid. This stone now rests 20 feet or more underground at the base of the original foundations, covered by layers of earth fill.

## Washington National Monument Society Organized, 1833

As early as 1783, the Continental Congress resolved to erect a monument honoring General George Washington. So L'Enfant in his plan for the capital city in 1791 specified the memorial's location. Nine days after Washington's death in December, 1799, fellow-Virginian John Marshall proposed in congress that the nation erect a marble monument in Washington's honor. At intervals through three decades congress discussed the Marshall resolution, always failing to act.

Displeased at the delay, citizens of the capital in 1833 organized the Washington National Monument Society. John Marshall, then Chief Justice, became its first president, succeeded upon his death in 1835 by ex-President James Madison.

Through public subscription, the society by 1848 had raised nearly one-tenth of the shaft's estimated one-million-dollar cost. It conducted a competition for the design of the monument, but the pantheonic winning design was in the end discarded.

## Remained at 150-foot Level for 26 Years

In the presence of President Polk and 20,000 citizens, the cornerstone, from a Baltimore quarry, was laid. The site was high ground a few hundred feet southeast of the then-swampy spot designated by L'Enfant's plan. Into the recessed stone was put a capsule of human intelligence of the day. Its 200 or more items included a Bible, copies of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, maps, city guides, a census report, and coins of the day.

Work proceeded slowly until 1854 when the eventual 555-foot shaft had reached the 150-foot level. There the project rested for so long that the 150-foot stump is well within the memory of elderly citizens today and its upper limit is still outlined by a slight change in the hue of the stone.

In 1876 the government took over, and from then until 1880 engineers broadened and strengthened the foundations with concrete under-pinning. The 100-ounce cap of aluminum, a metal then rare as silver, was set in the capstone in December, 1884. The shaft was opened to the public in October, 1888.

About 200 inscribed memorial stones, contributed by states, foreign nations, communities, and clubs, adorn lower landings on the 898-step stair-

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Besides working in the Terai, expedition members will visit Katmandu (illustration, inside cover). In this capital of the thickly settled central valley live most of Nepal's estimated 7,000,000 people. Dotted with ancient cities, temples (illustration, below), palaces, and monuments to strange animal gods, this valley is a mecca for Hindus and Buddhists.

Nepal—where it is still a capital crime to kill a cow—has adopted some Western ways. One such innovation is the projected "TVA of India," a hydroelectric plant in the Kosi valley east of Katmandu.

Travel in Nepal is a fantastic combination of new and old transport. To reach the capital, the journey is begun by railroad, continued by automobile, and completed by pony or coolie-borne sedan chair.

In addition to making collections in Nepal, the expedition plans work in near-by areas of India. This will include a survey for the Indian government with a view to establishing a national park to preserve the vanishing Great Indian Rhinoceros.

NOTE: Nepal is shown on the Society's map of India and Burma.

For additional information, see "Nepal, the Sequestered Kingdom," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1935; "Aërial Conquest of Everest," August, 1933; and "Nepal: A Little-Known Kingdom," October, 1920.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 28, 1947, "Nepal, Land of Mystery, Loses Isolation."

MARTIN HÜRLIMANN

**ON THE STONE STEPS OF A SMALL TEMPLE AT BALAJI, IN KATMANDU VALLEY, A NEPALESE ORCHESTRA MAKES SHRILL, THROBBING MUSIC WITH FLUTES AND ODD-SHAPED DRUMS**

Bulletin No. 5, October 18, 1948

# Britain Plans Dams at Source of Nile

AGAINST the backdrop of an equatorial lotusland, British technicians are establishing a beachhead at the headwaters of the storied Nile. They are pushing ahead with the preliminary work for construction of power and flood-control dams capable of producing almost two-thirds the amount of electric energy generated in the United Kingdom.

Few hydroelectric-development sites have known such a setting. It abounds with flamboyant birds of vivid color. The ponderous hippopotamus and the hungry crocodile make the area their home. And here breeds the deadly tsetse fly, long the scourge of mid-Africa.

## Source Remained Unknown until 1862

Rimming the headwater basin, a paradise of eternal summer, mountains rise to snow-capped heights astride the Equator. Below them lie the great lakes of Africa, lined with thickets of papyrus and orange-blossoming ambatch and afloat with lotus buds, lily pads, and rushes. In Lake Victoria, the largest, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island could be placed and hardly sighted from the shore.

From Lake Victoria's northern bank, at Jinja (map, next page), the legendary and half-deified Nile emerges to flow 3,500 miles north to Egypt, but its source remained undiscovered up to relatively recent times. Not until 1862 was the search of the centuries ended as John Hanning Speke, intrepid English explorer, stood at Ripon Falls and watched the infant but amazingly large stream tumble from the inland sea.

The Nile is probably the only great river that is born as a waterfall. A reef of rocks and small islands obstructs Lake Victoria's only outlet and the Nile's birth cry reaches the ears of the world as an angry roar over a drop of nearly 20 feet.

## Large-scale Tampering with Geography

A mile north of Ripon Falls the Nile pours over Owen Falls, an even bigger drop. There the dams are to be built. Sixty feet high, they will back water up completely over Ripon Falls and raise by three feet the level of Lake Victoria, second-largest fresh-water body in the world.

This large-scale tampering with geography may improve on nature's plan for handling Nile-basin waters. Lake Victoria acts as a huge reservoir, restraining equatorial-African floods and releasing them gradually. This, the White Nile source, gives the Nile of Egypt its comparatively stable year-round flow, while the Blue Nile, rising in Ethiopia, is responsible for the summer flood which makes the desert-bordered Egyptian ribbon as fertile as any land in the world.

Since Lake Victoria fills the bottom of a shallow basin, raising the level will undoubtedly change its shape and increase its size. But a higher and a constant water line would cover such of the tangled brush along the present shore where the feared tsetse fly breeds.

This fly spreads sleeping sickness, the dread disease which decimated central Africa in the 1900's and still rages in places. The fly needs shade to breed and large land areas have been cleared in extermination cam-

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way within the shaft. Some 22 million people have made the trip by elevator or stair to the observation windows at the 504-foot level.

From its 55-foot-square base, the shaft tapers one-fourth inch to each foot of height. If continued upward, it would come to a point at a height slightly greater than that of the Empire State Building.

Even today, projects are offered for changing or replacing the famous obelisk. Among them, the plan of D. L. Ellis, retired Seattle engineer, calls for a new shaft of the same proportions but a full 1,000 feet high. To be built of aluminum, it would weigh but one-sixth of the present marble structure. It would be anchored on bedrock at the location specified in L'Enfant's 1791 city plan.

NOTE: Washington Monument may be located on the Society's new Pocket Map of Central Washington, which appeared as a supplement to the *National Geographic Magazine* for September, 1948.

See also, "The Washington National Monument Society" and "Washington: Home of the Nation's Great," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1947.

VOLKMAR WENTZEL

**LIKE A NEEDLE OF WHITE-HOT METAL, THE FLOODLIGHTED WASHINGTON MONUMENT PIERCES THE NIGHT: LINCOLN MEMORIAL COLUMNS IN FOREGROUND**

paigns. The parklike region around Ripon Falls has been completely deforested by man, and is healthful, but below Owen Falls sleeping sickness thrives in the uncut wilderness along the river.

Despite this scourge, areas of Uganda, Kenya, and Tanganyika surrounding Lake Victoria are among the most densely settled in Africa—sometimes reaching 1,000 persons per square mile. Before the white man came, such tribes as the Baganda of Uganda had developed a smoothly functioning economy and government which British rule hardly has altered. The Baganda, centered at Kampala, only 40 miles from the Nile source, are a nation of small farmers. Cotton, their money crop, is all exported. Power from the projected dams may someday turn the wheels of local textile mills and keep some of Uganda's cotton at home.

**NOTE: The headquarters of the Nile may be located on the Society's map of Africa.**

**For additional information, see "By Felucca Down the Nile," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1940.**

DRAWN BY C. E. RIDDIFORD

**AT VICTORIA'S NORTH POINT THE NILE BEGINS A 3,500-MILE TRIP TO THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Victoria Nile and Albert Nile are local names for segments of the White Nile branch of the great river. From the point of view of drainage, the Kagera, largest stream to flow into Lake Victoria, is also part of the Nile system, making the total length 4,160 miles.**

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